

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12822

STATE FOR EUR/SOV (EDGAR)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BTRA, UR, US
SUBJECT: TRAVEL CONTROLS: US-USSR MARINE RESOURCES
COMPANY
REF: (A) STATE 140268, (B) MOSCOW A-103

1. WE WERE ABLE TO REACH MICHAEL STEVENS IN NAKHODKA BY TELEPHONE JUNE 6 TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL. COMMENTING FIRST ON MATTERS CONTAINED PARA (5) REFTEL, STEVENS CONFIRMED THAT HE NOW DRIVES COMPANY CAR HIMSELF AROUND NAKHODKA AND ONLY USES SOVIET CHAUFFEUR DURING BUSINESS HOURS OR WHEN OTHERWISE CONVENIENT. HE HAD NOT, HE SAID, HAD OCCASION TO VENTURE OUTSIDE OF NAKHODKA ITSELF, BUT WAS PLANNING A TROUT FISHING TRIP WHICH WOULD TAKE HIM SOME 60 KILOMETERS INLAND AND TO NORTH (ABOVE VLADIVOSTOK) IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS TIME. HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED ON THAT TRIP BY A SOVIET ACQUAINTANCE, WHO IS ALSO A TROUT FISHERMAN AND WHO STEVENS SAID WAS MAKING ALL ARRANGEMENTS FOR WEEKEND FISHING EXPEDITION. BECAUSE PHONE CONNECTION WAS INTERMITTENT, STEVENS WAS NOT ASKED DIRECTLY WHETHER HE HAD RECENTLY CHAUFFERED HIMSELF TO RESTAURANT IN
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SUBURBS -- TO WHICH HE HAD TAKEN EMBASSY OFFICERS AS REPORTED REPAIR. (COMMENT: WE PRESUME, HOWEVER, THAT STEVENS HAS BEEN ABLE TO AVAIL HIMSELF OF THAT MINOR PRIVILEGE.)

2. AS REGARDS PARA (4) REFTEL, STEVENS SAID THAT HE HAD NOT YET ACTUALLY TAKEN NON-TOURIST DAY TRAIN FROM

NAKHODKA TO Khabarovsk, although he reiterated his understanding that he would be allowed to do so when occasion arose. As for right to travel by road between those two cities, Stevens felt it would be very useful especially in connection with a tour of major fishing, fish research and fish processing centers administered by Dal'ryba which he is now planning for late July/early August. Stevens said he hopes to travel to such fishing ports as Magadan (Northern coast of Sea of Okhotsk), Sovetskaya Gavan', and Petropavlovsk-Kamchatkiy (Kamchatka Peninsula) as well as fish processing and research centers inland on Primorskiy Kray (Maritime Province) as part of tour. He conceded that travel to Magadan, Sovetskaya Gavan' and Petropavlovsk-Kamchatkiy would probably have to be accomplished by sea. But he felt that it would be extremely useful to have permission to travel by car along road to Khabarovsk for purpose of visiting fish processing research centers located in that area.

3. Stevens said that he had heard from company headquarters in Seattle that firm had now received permit from Department of Commerce enabling joint venture with Soviets to begin fishing operations in U.S. waters. He was very pleased with this development.

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4. In response to question, Stevens said that although he was planning a trip to Japan sometime within next thirty days, he expected to be back in Nakhodka four-to-five weeks from now. He told Comatt that he would inform Embassy by phone or telex before he left for Japan. (Stevens had informed US coincidentally by telex on June 5 that firm's office telex had been hooked up finally by local Ministry of Communications in Nakhodka.)

5. COMMENT: Although we are in no position to judge criticality of Latyshev's being present "temporarily" in Seattle on daily basis for six months to insure smooth functioning there of US/USSR marine resources commercial activity, we still perceive wide inconsistencies between manner in which he and Stevens are being treated in their respective locations. We will comment more fully, however, on our perceptions and recommendations by Septel. Matlock

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